

Abstract

An optical recording medium 10 of the present invention has a support substrate 11 and a light-transmitting layer 12, and further has a first dielectric layer 31, a noble metal nitride layer 23, a second dielectric layer 32, a light absorption layer 22, a third dielectric layer 33, and a reflection layer 21, all of which are interposed between the light-transmitting layer 12 and the support substrate 11. In the optical recording medium of the present invention, a laser beam 40 is irradiated on the substrate from the light entrance face 12a, to thus locally decompose the noble metal nitride layer 23, so that record marks can be formed by means of resultant bubble pits. In this case, a gas filling the bubble pits, which are to form the record marks, is a chemically-stable nitrogen gas (N_2). The risk of this gas oxidizing or corroding other layers is very remote, and high storage reliability can be achieved.